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Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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April 1, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", written over a horizontal line.

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Federal Stimulus Urgency Legislation

The Governor signed five urgency measures on March 27, 2009, which would allow the State to draw down Federal Stimulus funds immediately for Medi-Cal, clean drinking water and wastewater projects, and transportation and unemployment insurance. The bills are:

- **County-supported SBX3 24 (Alquist)** suspends Medi-Cal semi-annual reporting and temporarily restores 12-month continuous Medi-Cal eligibility for children under 19 years of age. This allows the State to qualify for the temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).
- **SBX3 27 (Negrete-McCloud)** allows the State to receive \$443 million in Federal Stimulus funds for clean drinking water and wastewater projects by amending State law to expedite the allocation of funds and increase the dollar amount for single projects within the timeframe deadlines and the purposes specified in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This measure provides \$160 million for drinking water projects, and it allocates \$283 million for wastewater treatment projects of which an estimated \$140 million would be distributed as grants to conform with Federal guidelines.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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- **ABX3 20 (Bass)** provides regional transportation authorities with greater discretion to select projects. The Department of Public Works (DPW) indicates that AB3X 20 maximizes transportation funding for the Los Angeles County region and the County under ARRA. According to DPW, available funding for the Los Angeles County region would increase from \$215 million to \$438 million, of which the Metropolitan Transportation Authority proposes to allocate \$315 million to cities and the County. The County's additional share would be an estimated \$10.8 million, increasing the County's total to approximately \$32.6 million for the urbanized unincorporated areas of the County, and an additional \$12 million for eligible transportation projects in the rural areas of the Fifth Supervisorial District.
- **ABX3 23 (Coto)** establishes eligibility requirements, which allow the unemployed to receive an additional 20 weeks of Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits provided in ARRA.
- **ABX3 29 (Coto)** will allow more individuals to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 719 (Lowenthal), as introduced on February 26, 2009, would require the California Department of Social Services to create the Transitional Food Stamps for Foster Youth Program by July 1, 2010.

Under AB 719, foster youth who are not eligible for CalWORKs or Supplemental Security Income would be automatically eligible to a 12-month Transitional Food Stamp benefits when they leave foster care. These youth would be exempt from any quarterly or semi-annual reporting requirements and from the fingerprint requirement during the 12-month Transitional Food Stamp certification period. The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) would be responsible for administering the program. DPSS indicates that they would work with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to ensure that foster youth are enrolled in the program as soon as they exit foster care.

According to DCFS, the first year of independence is critical for those leaving foster care. AB 719 would improve outcomes for transitioning foster youth as they move to self-sufficiency and may help prevent poverty and homelessness for this vulnerable population.

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The departments of Children and Family Services, Public Social Services, and this office support AB 719. Support is consistent with existing Board policy to facilitate successful emancipation, promote self-sufficiency, and improve opportunities for youth aging out of foster care. Therefore, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 719.**

AB 719 is scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 14, 2009. The bill is sponsored by the County Welfare Directors Association. There is no registered opposition on file.

Status of County-Sponsored Legislation

County-sponsored SB 179 (Runner), which would streamline the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) appeals process and promote adoptions by: 1) reducing the appeal period from 60 days to 30 days; 2) modifying the current process of serving the TPR by allowing the notice and appeal rights documents to be served directly to the birth parents if they are present in the court when the order is made; and 3) allowing the TPR order to automatically take effect 180 days after the order is made, was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 31, 2009. The author accepted Committee-proposed amendments to delete the language, which would allow the TPR to take effect 180 days after the order is made. SB 179 passed the committee, as amended, by a vote of 5 to 0. The measure now moves to the Assembly Floor where it is expected to be placed on the Assembly Consent Calendar.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK
MAL:MR:VE:sb

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
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California Contract Cities Association
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